Alleged memorandum a fraud, Weisberg contends

A report published by the Washington Post which claims the late FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover knew of a connection between Lee Harvey Oswald and Cuban officials is an attempt at diverting attention away from central issues of the John F. Kennedy assassination, according to Harold Weisberg.

Weisberg, author of seven books on political assassinations, conducted seminars here last week as part of a five-day symposium at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The Washington Post report was of a 1964 memo by Hoover in which he allegedly quoted an FBI informant as saying Oswald told Cuban officials about two months before Kennedy's death that he was going to kill the president. The report was published late last week.

The Justice Department is a "glaring disinformation operation," Weisberg said.

It is "more than a coincidence" that the story appeared on a weekend when no one is available for comment, he said, accusing the Justice Department or the FBI of purposely leaking the information to the press.

The purpose of the leak, according to Weisberg, was to divert the House of Representatives' new investigating committee from the real issues. The committee will meet today.

"It could not be more exact duplication of what the same people in the same positions did to the Warren Commission," he said.

"I am not being critical of the press," Weisberg said. "Suppose the Post had questions? What is the Post going to do because it knew very well that if it didn't run the story, the people would go to its competition . . . the government becomes a propaganda agency and the press is an involuntary adjunct."

He said items he requested under the Freedom of Information Act "clearly include this alledged memorandum" and the Justice Department was "a year in default" on release of items to him.

"They know I can expose this as a transparent fake and still another spook press manipulation," Weisberg said. "Now, 13 years too late, they aim at controlling the House investigation before it has a chance to begin."

The leak is a "further official effort to deny people the truth about how the president was killed and by whom," he said.

Oswald framed, Roffman says

As James Earl Ray was framed for the assassination of Martin Luther King, Lee Harvey Oswald was framed for killing John F. Kennedy, according to Howard Roffman, an author who spoke Saturday night during the last session of a five-day symposium on assassinations at the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

The FBI carried on a "fake investigation intended for a cover-up" and the Warren Commission was established to confirm J. Edgar Hoover's report and to end investigation, Roffman said.

"Oswald did not fire any shots. He was not guilty of murder. Whether he was involved in the plot, whether he knew about it, is unknown," Roffman said. "But the evidence left behind was obviously meant to lead the police to Oswald."

Tests show that a bullet from Oswald's rifle would not have sufficient force to cause head wounds like those sustained by Kennedy, he said. The bullet could not have produced the minute fragmentation found in Kennedy's head, he said, and the bullet which allegedly killed the president is not missing any fragments.

"The bullet they found is not the assassination bullet," Roffman said. "Someone planted it to frame Oswald."

The official report states that Oswald carried the rifle in a paper bag to the school book depository, he said, but the bag was too small to hide the gun, even if it was disassembled.

If the official report is believed, Owald fired the shots, carefully hid the rifle among several boxes and ran from the sixth floor to the first floor in 90 seconds, Roffman said.

In addition, all of the witnesses said the assassin was wearing a white shirt and Oswald's shirt was brown, Roffman said.

The Warren Commission reported it could not find anyone who saw Oswald within 35 minutes before the crime, he said, but a book depository employe said she saw Oswald on the first floor when the president was shot. Her testimony was not included in the commission's report, Roffman said.

"One step has to be taken," he said. "The lawyers and public officials responsible for the frame have to be brought to face their consequences. What can we say about justice in America when the president's murderer goes free and intelligence agencies conspire to frame an innocent person?"